

Message Text

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67

ACTION ARA-10

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R 081405Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6708

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 7372

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PE

SUBJ: APRA AND THE NEW GOVERNMENT

1. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBASSY, APRA SOURCE RELATE THAT THE PARTY IS MORE THAN MILDLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT POLITICAL TENDENCIES OF THE MORALES BERMUDEZ GOVERNMENT AND APRA'S FUTURE PROSPECTS. THE APRA HAS NOT ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE ON THE CHANGE BECAUSE OF PERSONAL RESERVATIONS HELD BY PARTY CHIEF HAYA DE LA TORRE. HAYA FEELS THAT THE PARTY SHOULD ISSUE A STATEMENT OF SUPPORT BUT "WITH CONDITIONS" WHILE SOME APRISTAS ARE PUSHING FOR UNCRITICAL BACKING OF THE MORALES BERMUDEZ GOVERNMENT. HAYA CONTENDS THAT MANY VELASQUISTAS ARE STILL IN KEY POSITIONS AND THAT THE DECLARED AMNESTY IS PARTIAL ONLY.

2. THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE APRA UNION (CTP), JULIO CRUZADO, HAS PROPOSED A STATEMENT SUPPORTING MORALES BERMUDEZ GOVERNMENT WITHOUT RESERVATION, BUT HAYA STRONGLY OPPOSED IT. THE CTP ULTIMATELY ISSUED A STATEMENT "SUPPORTING NEW POLICIES OF ARMED FORCES" BUT CALLING FOR ADDITIONAL MEASURES INCLUDING "BROAD AMNESTY WHICH ENCOMPASSES WORKERS, STUDENTS AND OTHER CITIZENS ACCUSED OF OSTENSIBLE CRIMES AGAINST THE PUBLIC ORDER". DISPUTE WAS NOT ONLY OVER NATURE OF STATEMENT BUT RELATES TO

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CRUZADO'S EFFORT TO CARVE OUT A POSITION SOMEWHAT INDEPENDENT

OF THE APRA PARTY'S OFFICIAL LINE.

3. CARLOS ENRIQUE FERREYROS, HEAD OF THE LIMA BAR ASSOCIATION WHO WAS RECENTLY DEPORTED, RETURNED TO LIMA ON SEPTEMBER 4. VETERAN APRA LEADER ARMANDO VILLANUEVA IS IN NEW YORK AND PLANS TO RETURN NEXT WEEK ACCOMPANIED BY HIS COLLEAGUES LUIS NEGREIROS AND CARLOS ROCA. APRA IS PLANNING A MASSIVE RALLY AT THE AIRPORT TO RECEIVE VILLANUEVA. THE PARTY HOPES TO DEMONSTRATE TO MORALES BERMUDEZ THAT APRA ENJOYS WIDE-SPREAD SUPPORT AMONG THE POPULACE.

4. THERE HAVE BEEN INITIAL CONTACTS BETWEEN APRA AND MORALES BERMUDEZ REGIME. PARTY SECRETARY RAMIRO PRIALE MET QUIETLY ON AUGUST 31 WITH NEW PRIME MINISTER VARGAS PRIETO WHO ASSURED PRIALE THAT THE GOP WOULD NOT ENCOURAGE THE COMMUNISTS, BUT NEITHER WOULD IT DIRECTLY ATTACK THEM. THE GOVERNMENT WOULD INSTEAD WORK SLOWLY TO REMOVE COMMUNIST INFLUENCE (WHICH VARGAS PRIETO REPORTEDLY SAID WAS SUBSTANTIAL). IF APRA RALLY AT AIRPORT GOES WELL, PARTY WILL THEN INITIATE DIRECT CONTACT WITH MORALES BERMUDEZ. VILLANUEVA WING FEELS THAT VILLANUEVA HIMSELF RATHER THAN HAYA DE LA TORRE, WHO IS MORE CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH HISTORY OF APRA - MILITARY ANIMOSITY, SHOULD BE SPOKESMAN FOR THE PARTY.

5. APRA IS CONFIDENT THAT THE RECENTLY FORMED GOP POLITICAL ORGANIZATION (OPRP) WILL NOT PROSPER BUT WILL BE QUIETLY DISBANDED. MORALES BERMUDEZ IS SAID TO OPPOSE CONCEPT OF OFFICIAL PARTY. GENERALS TANTALEAN AND DALA OROSCO WHO WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN THE FORMATION OF THE POLITICAL ORGANIZATION HAVE BEEN REPLACED, HAS HAS, ACCORDING TO APRA, THEIR COLLABORATOR AND TOP VELASCO REGIME IDEOLOGUE, CARLOS DELGADO.

6. APRA LEADERS FEEL THAT THE MORALES BERMUDEZ REGIME WILL ENJOY THE SUPPORT OF MOST POLITICAL GROUPS FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. THIS SUPPORT EVEN EXTENDS TO SOME LEADERS OF THE MILITANT TEACHERS UNION (SUTEP) WHO TALK OF "DIALOGUE" WITH MORALES BERMUDEZ AND EXPRESS HOPE THAT HE WILL MODIFY EDUCATION REFORMS WHICH HAVE BEEN MAJOR IRRITANT FOR TEACHERS (ALONG WITH SALARY QUESTIONS). APRA FEELS THAT THE GOP WILL BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE WITH SUTEP WHICH, ACCORDING TO APRA, PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS LEADING TO THE AUGUST 29 COUP. ADAMANT SUTEP OPPOSITION TO VELASCO, TOPPED OFF BY

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AN AUGUST 28 STRIKE (IN WHICH SEVERAL STUDENTS REPORTEDLY WERE KILLED), WAS CONSTANT DEMONSTRATION OF POPULAR DISCONTENT.

DEAN

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